

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 10, which are independent, are hereby amended. Claims 13-24 are hereby canceled. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,020,982 to Yamauchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,590,306 to Watanabe et al.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A terminal apparatus comprising...

judging means for judging whether the inserted memory card is copyright-protected when a normal response is obtained within a predetermined period of time during an authorization process...” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 6,020,982 to Yamauchi, et al. relates to an electronic still camera for converting an optical image of a subject into digital image data, and recording into a memory card incorporating semiconductor memories. Data obtained from the electronic still camera is stored in a large-capacity recording medium through an exclusive recording device, or displayed in plural monitors, or stored in a disk or magnetic tape by existing recording devices or compressed, expanded, edited or processed.

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 5,590,306 to Watanabe, et al. relates to an IC memory card control system including an IC memory card and an IC memory card control apparatus to which the IC memory card is detachably mounted to store management information as well as data. The management area of the IC memory card is provided with an identification area into which are written an occupation code indicative of recording of the data in the data area and a recording code indicative of an abnormal recording of the data in the data area.

Applicant submits that Yamauchi and Watanabe, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion of a judging means for judging whether an inserted memory card is copyright-protected when a normal response is obtained within a predetermined period of time during an authorization process, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claim 10 is also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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